

15 December 1971

Mr. David Packard  
Deputy Secretary's Office  
Department of Defense

Dear Mr. Packard,

I am sending this note to amplify in writing some of the thoughts I tried to convey during our 14 December conversation in Secretary Laird's office.

No one in his right mind and capable of doing simple arithmetic can fail to understand your reasons for resigning at this time. Indeed, the extent of the personal financial cost you have already incurred in order to serve your country is, when one reflects on it, staggering. The quiet, unassuming way in which you willingly made this sacrifice is something I fear far too many of your fellow citizens fail to appreciate or even comprehend.

Despite the unarguable cogency of your reasons for leaving the government, however, you will be sorely missed. I suspect relatively few people in -- let alone out of -- government are even dimly aware of how much you have accomplished or how great have been your contributions to this country's strength and welfare, especially in the field of national defense, a field that has direct or indirect impact on virtually every facet of our national life. Obviously factors such as intelligence and competence have played a major role, but in no small measure your effectiveness has been a consequence of your manner and style. In an era of clamor and pushy self-advertisement, you have been an impressive example of how much can be done, and done better, by being self-effacing and unobtrusive and working quietly for results rather than glittering public show.

As you leave Washington for private life, you take with you the respect and admiration, both personal and professional, of all of us who have been privileged to know you and work directly with you. I am sure every one of your associates in government, from the most senior to the most junior, share my appreciation for what you have done and what, through personal example, you have shown us all about how things can be done. I am equally sure that all of your associates share my wish that the private pursuits to which you are now returning will be successful and rewarding in every respect.

Sincerely yours,

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George A. Carver, Jr.

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VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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DATE: 15 Dec 71

TO: The Director

FROM: GACarver, Jr.

SUBJECT:



REMARKS:

Attached for your information is  
a note that I sent to former Deputy  
Secretary Packard.

George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

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